

LEGAL NOTICE

RFP #0634-229

Title: External Behavioral Health Utilization Review Development

The State of Washington, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) intends to issue a Request for Proposals to engage one contractor to assist in the development of external utilization review methods for psychiatric hospitalizations. The project is intended to further efforts of the state to ensure appropriate levels of inpatient and community based services which support the recovery of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness.

The Mental Health Division (MHD) is a component of the Health and Recovery Services Administration of the Department of Social and Health Services of the State of Washington. MHD has an annual budget of approximately \$700 million and supports statewide community mental health services, two adult state psychiatric hospitals, one child and adolescent state psychiatric hospital, and an array of community behavioral health residential services for children and adolescents. The community mental health system is based on a CMS waiver (1915, B) and consists of 14 Regional Support Networks (RSN) across the state. The RSNs contract with provider networks for direct care services. There are approximately 180 provider agencies contracted by the 14 Regional Support Networks.

During the 2006 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature passed a package of policy and budget initiatives designed to clarify the responsibilities of the State and Regional Support Networks related to inpatient care and ensure that care be recovery oriented and provided in community settings to the extent possible. Over the next year, the state will be developing and implementing programs which provide alternatives to state psychiatric hospitalization including statewide implementation of Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) teams. In addition, the state will be conducting long term planning in a variety of areas.

The contracts resulting from this RFP will be to assist in the development of statewide criteria and process for external utilization review of state and community psychiatric hospitalizations.

The RFP will be issued on or about August 18, 2006 and responses will be due on or about September 20, 2006.

This RFP is available at the DSHS Procurements website at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/ccs>

Parties that are unable to access the website above, may request a hard copy by submitting their name, business name if applicable, address, e-mail, phone and fax number to:

Department of Social and Health Services
Central Contract Services
PO Box 45811
Olympia WA 98504-5811
Attn: Bonnie Lindstrom, RFP Coordinator
RE: RFP # 0634-229
You may fax your request to (360) 664-6184
Or E-mail it to lindsbx@dshs.wa.gov